



MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education
FROM: Wes Bruce
DATE: October 28, 2009
SUBJECT: Assessment Update

ISTEP

We are currently seeking schools to sign up for the online ISTEP+. The multiple choice portion of the test is offered online for Grades 3-8. Schools can choose to test one or more grades using our secure web based testing system. Last spring, 95 schools and 10,000 students took part in our first ever “online” ISTEP. The March portion of the test (applied skills) is still administered on paper to all students.

GQE

The GQE Retest results are on track to be returned to school corporations November 30th.

End of Course Tests (ECA)

Attached is an “Interim Report” that will provide some information about student strengths and weaknesses to help schools plan for remediation. The report will not provide any indication of “passing.” This interim report will only be needed this school year. After the cut scores are set, schools will receive final student reports in 24 hours (online tests) or 7 days (paper tests).

Growth

On October 26th we conducted two WebEx meetings to introduce the Indiana growth model to school corporations. An early December release of school level growth is planned.

ISTEP+: Algebra I Graduation Examination



Student Report for ALBERT SAMPLE

STN: 999999999
Grade: 10
Birthdate: 10/10/1993
Test Administration: Fall 2009-10
Corporation: QAI Test Corp Golf (T007)
School: QAI Test Golf High (TSG1)
Teacher: Imran Syed
Class: 101
Retester: No

Indiana Academic Standards

The Indiana Academic Standards describe what students should know and be able to do in English/Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science. This ECA was created to measure whether students have learned what we expect them to know.

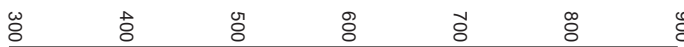
Student Scores are scale scores that represent student achievement levels relative to the Indiana Academic Standards.

This report provides information on your child's achievement of the Indiana Academic Standards. You can see at a glance whether your child is meeting the minimum standard set for all students in our state. Your child's teacher can also show you classroom work and other test results that provide evidence of your child's progress.

Proficiency Rating:

N/A

Student Score: N/A



Performance by Standard:

Student Performance scores are an indication of a student's performance on the individual Indiana Academic Standards. These scores represent the expected number of items that the student would have answered correctly if the student had taken 100 similar items for the specific Academic Standard.

These 2-digit scores cannot be added together to total the 3-digit Student Score. The Score at Average for each standard is provided along with the Strength or Weakness (-), which shows the difference between the Student Score for a Standard and the Score at Average.

Algebra I	Item Type	Student Score	Score at Average	Strength or Weakness
Linear Equations and Inequalities	(MC,OE,GR)	51	50	1
Sketching and Interpreting Graphs	(MC,XY)	75	39	36
Systems of Linear Equations	(MC,OE,GR)	56	44	12
Polynomials	(MC,GR)	39	39	0
Quadratic Equations	(MC,OE)	50	52	-2

MC: Multiple-choice items

OE: Open-ended items. Test questions requiring a created response, such as sentences or paragraphs written by the student.

GR: Gridded response item

XY: Graphing item

Your child's teacher can describe the kinds of extra help your child can receive, if needed. Indiana schools are required to provide remediation for students who do not pass the Academic Standards. It's your responsibility as a parent to make sure your child takes advantage of these opportunities.

If you want to see how your child's scores compare to the average scores of the state and local school corporation, you can find that information and more at the Indiana Department of Education website, www.doe.in.gov/eca, or you can send email to ECA@doe.in.gov.



MEMORANDUM

TO: Wes Bruce, Chief Assessment Officer

FROM: Michele Walker, Director of Student Assessment

SUBJECT: Address to the State Board of Education by Tony Hollowell

DATE: October 26, 2009

After a careful review of Tony Hollowell's "Address to the State Board of Education," dated October 7, 2009, it appears there are a number of misunderstandings regarding the Algebra I End-of-Course Assessment (ECA). The following is an attempt to clarify those misunderstandings. The quotes are taken directly from Mr. Hollowell's "Address to the State Board of Education" document.

1. "...in April, just one month before the exam, we were informed that the expectations of the exam had changed."

The Spring 2009 Algebra I ECA did include pilot items—items that would appear on the "new" Algebra I Graduation Examination. These pilot items were *not* part of the student's score in Spring 2009. Information regarding the "new" Algebra I Graduation Examination was shared last spring and this fall. All the Algebra I tests administered in 2008-09 were based on the "old" Algebra I blueprint (in place since 2002-03) and all students were responsible for and graded on only that content.

2. "The old exam allowed a graphing calculator throughout the exam, but the new exam did not."

There were six **pilot** items on the Spring 2009 Algebra I ECA that were "non-calculator" items. Again, these pilot items were *not* part of the student's score in Spring 2009. We always pilot items with Indiana students before they are placed on an operational test.

3. "The old exam was 45 minutes, the new exam was 50 minutes, and it included more problems."

The test included "more problems" as a result of the pilot items. Additional minutes were needed for those pilot items.

4. “The response items for the old exam did not include gridded response problems, the exam did.”

The gridded response problems were pilot items and were not a part of student scores last year.

5. I had in my hands two publicly released documents with conflicting information about what was to be expected on the exam, and these documents coexisted simultaneously with one another on the DOE website.”

It is true that we did have information about both the old Algebra I end of course assessment and the new Algebra I graduation end of course assessment posted on our website.

6. “The most important item to help schools prepare for the Core 40 exam is the exam blueprint.”

The blueprints for the 2009-10 ECAs (Algebra I, English I0 and Biology I) are posted on the web. [Note: The tests are no longer referred to as a “Core 40” exam.]

Attached please find a list of communications our staff has had with Mr. Hollowell.

Please let me know if you have questions or need additional information. Thank you.

The following represent communications with Mr. Hollowell from staff members in the Office of Student Assessment:

Date	Type of Correspondence	IDOE Staff Member
2008	face-to-face meeting	Jim Mirabelli
11-?-08	telephone call	Jim Mirabelli
11/18/2008	email	Jim Mirabelli
11/19/2008	email	Jim Mirabelli
12/2/2008	email	Jim Mirabelli
12/17/2008	email	Jim Mirabelli
4/19/2009	email	Cheryl Hustedt
4/20/2009	email	Cheryl Hustedt
4/22/2009	email	Cheryl Hustedt
4/27/2009	email	Cheryl Hustedt
6/3/2009	email	Jim Mirabelli
6/14/2009	email	Michele Walker
8/27/2009	email	Jim Mirabelli
8/31/2009	face-to-face meeting	Jim Mirabelli
8/31/2009	brief face-to-face mtg.	Michele Walker

Jim Mirabelli - Mathematics Assessment Specialist

Cheryl Hustedt - End-of-Course Assessment Specialist

Michele Walker - Director of Student Assessment